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42ND INFANTRY TAKES HAND-OFF OF AVIATION MISSION FROM V CORPS BRIGADE

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FORWARD OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq -- The 4th Brigade of V Corps' 1st Infantry Division officially passed the aircraft support mission for the Multinational Division North Central to the 42nd Aviation Brigade during a February 2 ceremony here.

As Soldiers from the 42nd Aviation and the 4th Brigades watched, Col. Walter M. Golden, the 4th Brigade commander, transferred authority for the mission to Lt. Col. Mark F. Burke, commander of the 42nd.

Maj. Gen. John R.S. Batiste, commander of 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger, said during the ceremony that he has no doubt in the abilities of the newly appointed unit and believes the incoming Soldiers will be successful with their mission here.

"I am confident that you will continue to uphold the incredibly high standards (here)," said Batiste. "You have already made a name for yourself since you arrived and you will continue to provide world-class aerial support."

Golden told the Soldiers of the 42nd that the transition from his unit to theirs has been a seamless one due to the efforts of both units.

"You are off to a great start establishing a commendable reputation for aviation mission support," Golden said. He added that the 42nd would have a good year because of "the amount and quality of aviation operations" the two units jointly conduct.

Burke agreed. He said the work the 4th Brigade has already accomplished would allow them to better do their job as they take over their mission.

